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BEST OF THE PAPERBACKS

Off with Their Reds, They Shout

By Joseph Haas

ing. in a marketing test to see which people seem to prefer.

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IN THIS MIXED-UP world, you've got to take advantage of what laughter comes your way. So, until they become dangerous, we're grateful for the white knights of the Far Right.

Stanley Reynolds presents a whole wonderland full of these off-with-their-Reds characters in his novel, *"Better Dead than Red,"* an original Ballantine paperback (75 cents).

OF COURSE, it's the wildest farce. Who would believe, for example, that a New England businessman forced into early retirement would blame the whole thing on "creeping socialism" and the "Communist conspiracy," and launch a John Drake Society Inc. to combat it? Or that a Texas oil millionaire might use his billions to build his own nuclear device and support a secret right-wing army training in the wastelands of the West to be ready to combat the Red takeover that's almost here? Or that ex-Gen. Humbolt ("with no 'd'—real American") would join the crusade, embittered because the Army resented his somewhat cavalier treatment of the citizens of occupied Germany (he tried to hang all of them).

Certainly this is the stuff of fantasy. But for a few laughs and a few moments of escape from reality, you might enjoy it, too.

Sylvia Press's *"The Care of Devils"* (Bantam, 75 cents) is a fictionalized account of the author's treatment at the hands of the Central Intelligence Agency in the McCarthy era. It has a believable air of unreality, too.

Ellen Simon, a long-time CIA employe, suddenly finds her loyalty under suspicion. Removed from her regular assignment, she is subjected for weeks during her regular workdays to intensely personal security interrogation on the



To help you enjoy one of the few vacation spots still untainted by tourism, Pocket Books has just published *"The Bowery on 75 Cents a Day"* (\$1), by Harold Rand and Robert Saffron.

basis of accusations about her of which she is never informed.

The novel re-creates the mental anguish on just one woman, a dozen years ago, and yet it raises always timely questions about CIA methods if such indignities to individuals are permitted. This novel, first published in 1958, deserves this paperback revival.

THIS SUMMER, Bantam seems to hold the monopoly on the big Kennedy books in paperback. The biggest of all at the moment is Theodore C. Sorensen's *"Kennedy"* (\$1.95), a longtime best-seller written by probably his closest friend in his administration.

By the way, with this volume Bantam is trying something new. It will sell the paperback in either a sealed, plastic-wrapped edition, handy for mailing and gift-giving, and without such airtight packaging.

The other Bantam Kennedys are Elie Abel's *"The Missile Crisis"* (95 cents), a thrilling hour-by-hour documentation of the harrowing days when the United States discovered Soviet missiles mounted in Cuba, and *"My Twelve Years with John F. Kennedy,"* by Evelyn Lincoln (95 cents), his personal secretary's warm remembrance of the late President.

One of the big books of any season is James Michener's panoramic historical novel of our 50th state, *"Hawaii"* (Bantam, \$1.65). It's 1,130 pages, and that's big!

Some paperbacks in brief:

"Alfie," by Bill Naughton (Ballantine, 60 cents), an often hilarious novelization of the coming movie that holds its own as fiction about a Cockney Lothario whose foremost concern is "Number One."

"A Fool's Errand," by Al-bion W. Tourgee (Harper Torchbooks, \$2.75), republication of an 1879 novel by an outspoken critic of the South's attitudes toward Reconstruction which provides a vivid portrait of that turbulent era.

"The Good Samaritan and the Law," edited by James M. Ratcliffe (Doubleday Anchor, \$1.45), an original paperback that provides a seminar for all aspects of the moral, legal and social problems involved in the obligation to help one's fellow man.

"LSD: The Consciousness-Expanding Drug," edited by David Solomon (Berkley, 95 cents), an anthology of generally pro-Timothy Leary views toward the use of psychedelic substances, with an introduction by Dr. Leary and articles by such as Aldous Huxley, Allen Watts, Alan Watts, William S. Burroughs.